

## SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS

1. (Amended) A process for producing a stabilized cell for use as an internal control in methods for isolating and identifying rare cells, said stabilized control cell having determinants in common with said rare cells, said process comprising:

- a) redundantly labeling said control cell with at least two distinct fluorescent labels having the same spectral properties;
- b) permeabilizing said control cell;
- c) contacting said labeled cells with a cell fixative said fixative effecting stabilization of both cellular structure and antigenic moieties present on said control cells;
- d) subsequently removing the excess fixative to promote long-term storage of said control cells, said control cells being physically and biologically stable for [at least six months] said long-term storage period.

5. (Cancel) Use of specific trade names.

7. (Amended) A process for producing a stabilized cell for use as an internal control in methods for isolating and identifying rare cells, said stabilized control cell having determinants in common with said rare cells, said process comprising:

- a) redundantly membrane labeling said control cell with at least two distinct fluorescent labels having the same spectral properties;
- b) permeabilizing said control cell;
- c) contacting said labeled cells with a cell fixative said fixative effecting stabilization of both cellular structure and antigenic moieties present on said control cells;
- d) subsequently removing the excess fixative to promote long-term storage of said control cells, said control cells being physically and biologically stable for [at least six months] said long-term storage period, wherein said control cell expresses epithelial cell adhesion molecule (EpCam) on its surface and also expresses cytokeratin intracellularly.